

MAGNOLIA

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MERIDIAN STAR

MERIDIAN, MS

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08/08/2009



State Games of Mississippi

Participation up 6 percent in State Games

from special reports

The 2009 State Games of Mississippi completed its 18th year on a high note with a 6 percent increase in participation over the 2008 Games and a record attendance at Opening Ceremonies, which attracted one of the largest crowds ever seen in Downtown Meridian.

Seven of the 27 sports had record participation, including 5K Road Race, High School Team Baseball, Adult Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Junior Tennis, and Canoe/Kayak.

The next event for the State



Games of Mississippi will be the AT&T Athlete of the Year Awards Banquet on Saturday, Aug. 15, in Meridian.

Thirty-seven athletes from 22 sports have been nominated for this award, and the winner will represent Mississippi in the National State Games Athlete of the Year Competition.

Nominees include:

Stephen Joe of Madison, Allstar Baseball; Logan Little of Tupelo, Youth Soccer; Makenzie Cobb of Meridian, Youth Soccer; Mark Slater of Waynesboro, High School Basketball; Tramekia

Walker of Newton, High School Basketball; Andrea Benton of Florence, Dressage; Greg Vaughn of Meridian, Barrel Racing; Anna Hailey of Macon, Barrel Racing; Curtis Bailey of Jackson, Adult Basketball; Joe Morrow of Amory, Powerlifting; Nancy Williams of Toomsoba, Softball; Scott and Dawn Gray of Meridian, Volleyball; Chad Moore of Hattiesburg, 5K and Cross Country; Kayla Stricker of Hattiesburg, 5K, Cross Country and Powerlifting; Chad Bounds of Meridian, Junior Golf; Hope Biggs of Clinton Junior Golf; Joe Hasson of Meridian, Bowling; Annie Cherry of Meridian,

Bowling; Melissa Morrison of Natchez, Canoe/Kayak; Brentt Thompson of Collinsville, Cycling; Zachery Farmer of Conehatta, Stickball; Andrew Gunn of Clinton, High School Team Baseball; Tristan and Gabrielle Caldwell of Brandon, Martial Arts; Allen Hardy of Philadelphia, Master Swimming; Addy Panzram of Hattiesburg, Master Swimming; Coyt Majure of Meridian, Tennis; Melissa Hudson of Meridian, Tennis; Joe Brinson of Okolona, Fencing; Sonia Fogal of Jackson, Fencing; and Nathan Hathorn of Laurel,

See **STATE GAMES** on page B3

STATE GAMES from page B1

Archery.

Officials with the State Games of Mississippi are considering the addition of several new sports for the 2010 Games. Track and Field, Water Skiing and Sailing have been State Games events in the past, and the hope is to return them to the Games in 2010.

Also under consideration are Triathlon, Fishing, and Paintball competitions.

"Anyone who is involved in these sports and would be willing to serve as the Commissioner is asked to contact us as soon as possible," State Games Sports Director Missye Dozier said. Interested parties may call 1-800-482-0205 or email Dozier at

sgmmissyed@aol.com for more information.

The State Games of Mississippi is one of 35 State Games organizations that are a part of the National Congress of State Games, which is also affiliated with the International Olympic Committee.

Officials with the Mississippi State Games will be attending the National Congress Symposium in Ames, Iowa, in October.

"This is always a great opportunity to see what other states are doing and to showcase what we are doing in Mississippi," Marketing and Public Relations Director Leah Reed said.

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Thank you to the community

The board of directors, staff and over 2,000 youth members of the Boys & Girls Club of East Mississippi would like to thank the community for their support of the Club.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to the following individuals, companies and organizations for their financial support of the recent 2009 Celebration of Excellence dinner.

With the continued support from people you, the Boys & Girls Club of East Mississippi can continue to be "THE POSITIVE PLACE FOR KIDS!"

Community Heroes

Structural Steel, The Radio People, Mitchell Companies, The Riley Foundation, Ann and Eddie Holladay

Lifesaver Circle

Mississippi Power, Van Zyverden's, First Light/XTRA Lite Lighting, Meridian Housing Authority, New Vision House of God

Youthbuilder Circle

Comcast Cable, Vital Care of Meridian, Lockheed Martin, Southern Pipe and Supply, First Baptist Church, Greater Meridian Health Clinic, Coca-Cola Meridian, Alliance Health Center, Fred's

Circles of Excellence

Anderson Hospital, AT&T, Avery Dennison, B.J. & David Ray, Bank Plus, BBB Foundation, Benefits Management Group, Berry & Gardner Funeral Home, Best Buy, Central Methodist Church, Charles Wilkinson, Charles Young, Sr. Foundation, Chris McDonald Insurance, Clearspan Components, Commercial Lawn, Community Bank, Dexter McCleon, Ellen & Walter Rogers, First Christian Church, First Presbyterian Church, First State Bank, First Union Baptist Church, Gloria Williams, Great Southern National Bank, J.C. Penney Company, John O'Neil Johnson Toyota, Dr. Kimberly Adams, Long Distribution, McDonald's, Meridian Oncology Associates, Mobile Solutions, Nancy Dowling, Pain Partners, Percy Bland Insurance, Quality Logistics Systems, Popeyes/ Little Caesars, Rotary Club, Rush Foundation Hospital, Sela Ward/ Sally Crooks, St. Patrick/ St. Joseph Churches, The Nelson Center for Women, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Trustmark Bank, W.G. Yates & Sons, Winn Umphlett, Woody Davis

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MONITOR-HERALD

CALHOUN CITY, MS

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WEEKLY

08/06/2009



Funding falling into place for courthouse construction

■ **New garbage truck is
said to cut travel expense.**

By Mack Spencer
Monitor-Herald

PITTSBORO — County supervisors may have to put less into building a new courthouse than they thought.

Sen. Thad Cochran's office reported last week that \$900,000 for the courthouse had been inserted into a bill dealing with funding for the federal departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has passed the bill to the full Senate, which is not expected to act on the bill until September, after the annual August recess.

The bill will then have to be reconciled in conference with the House version of the bill, which was passed July 23.

Most of this week's floor action in the Senate is devoted to debate and voting on the nomination of judge Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court.

Board of Supervisors president Barney Wade noted the federal appropriation at Monday's board meeting, and said that the county has turned in all the necessary paperwork for a low-interest loan for the courthouse project through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development division.

Advertisements for bids on the courthouse project are now expected to run this month, with a bid opening date of Sept. 10.

The board approved an agreement with Atinos Energy to have gas lines moved from the planned construction site for \$29,000. The cost was negotiated down from \$40,000 with the help of public service commissioner Brandon Presley, Wade said.

In other business:

■ Three Rivers Solid Waste director Dan Reese told supervisors that the new, large garbage truck purchased this summer had been put into service.

Board

Continued from Page 1A

Since it started running, the number of trips by county trucks to the landfill in Pontotoc had been cut to one per day on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Though happy with the savings in travel expenses represented by the cut in trips, several of the supervisors asked that the county solid waste workers make sure that smaller trucks are used on some of the smaller roads to keep from destroying the pavement.

Reese and county director Richard Thacker said they would do so. "We changed some routes, and I expected some confusion on the front end," Reese said.

■ Economic development

director Terry Fales reported that Bruce has received permission to begin in-kind drainage work around the United Chair plant. The town board was expected to hire an engineer for the project Tuesday night.

An environment review must still be completed before road and pump repair to be funded by an Appalachian Regional Commission grant can be started.

Approval of a grant to help with transportation costs of moving equipment to the United Chair plant is still pending.

■ Robert Bean asked the board for an advertisement to help sponsor a blues festival in Bruce.

The festival is a fund-raiser for the future Reed Park, planned on a site off Reed Road.

"We're focused on softball right now. We have enough land where we can put a softball field," Bean said. "We want to look in the future at Little League football, and we might get into basketball later."

Bean said the non-profit organization behind the park could also use help building an access road and creating a parking lot. Board members said they would consider the request.

■ Land roll changes were approved.

■ Action on renewing the county's health insurance coverage was postponed. Premiums on the current policy are expected to rise 9 percent for the next fiscal year.

■ Rhonda Nix resigned as Extension Service secretary. The position will be advertised.

Turn to **BOARD** on Page 3A



Supervisors approve next phase of E-911 service

By Russell Hood
The Webster Progress-Times

WALTHALL — Supervisors on Monday authorized beginning the next phase of Webster County's E-911 emergency system.

After consulting with 911 Director Terry McCain by phone, they voted to proceed with measures to complete Phase II of Enhanced 911. An E-911 Phase I-compliant system provides emergency dispatchers with the caller's telephone number and, in the case of cellular users, the location of the transmitting tower from which the 911 call

Phase, see page 2A

Phase

Continued from page 1A

originates. A Phase II-compliant system requires not only the cell phone number, but also the longitude and latitude of the origin of the call, known as extended Automatic Location Identification (ALI).

Specifically, the order authorizes AT&T to install extended ALI. The installation charge will be \$2,200 and the monthly fee will be \$190, according to the discussion. In conjunction with this, McCain said he would notify all cellular providers in the county to request that they also activate ALI. They will have six months to do so, with that cost being covered by the Mississippi Commercial Mobile Radio Services Board from surcharges on cell phone users' bill.

Also Monday, the board voted to allow Justice Court Clerk Janice Brunty to attend an associational conference Sept. 2-4 in Biloxi.

In business during the board's 11 meetings last month (see related articles), minutes show that supervisors also handled

these matters on the dates listed:

- July 7
 - approved an order to proceed with equalizing real and personal property tax rolls.
 - approved travel for Circuit Clerk Deborah Hood Neal to attend an associational convention that was July 15-18 in Tupelo.
 - voted to pay a \$100 claim to Data Systems Management Inc. for entering personal property tables for the county even though no requisition or purchase order was ever completed. This was an error of the tax assessor's office inadvertently failing to file a requisition, the records state.
 - heard a complaint from Gary Miller about the condition of Starnes Tabernacle Road.
 - voted to modify the tax exemption for Plymouth Tube Co. by reducing the amount of ad valorem tax exemption from \$489,476 to \$466,287 because some of the equipment was listed doubly, thereby increasing the amount of the initial

exemption.

July 13
The board voted 4-0 to hire Jimmy McLemore as a full-time 911 dispatcher at the same rate of pay as other dispatchers effective that day. He had been working part time in that position.

Ruthie Salley (District 2), McCain's sister, recused herself from the meeting during this discussion and vote.

July 16
Tammy Lantrip of Watkins Ward and Stafford accounting firm addressed the board concerning audit findings.

The board amended the Sheriff's Department fund to budget for care of its drug dog.

July 20
As recommended by Dock Gabbert of Willis Engineering, the board voted to revise a Local System Bridge Project and to exchange county Surface Transportation Program money for LSBP money with another county. Appropriate orders were spread upon the minutes.

The supervisors voted to enter into an agreement with the State Aid division of the Mississippi Department of Transportation for

ment of Transportation for bridge inspections.

At the request of Eugene Doss, county Emergency Management Agency director, supervisors voted to advance the Mantee Volunteer Fire Department \$1,000 from the fire rebate fund. The money is to be repaid from the Rural Fire Truck Fund when it becomes available and disbursed among the remaining fire departments. This action was in conjunction with a grant for a new fire truck that the Mantee VFD received.

After discussing the long-delayed Ansell-Hawkeye access road project with John Freeman of Calvert-Spradling Engineers, the board authorized the signing of a revised and amended agreement with the consulting engineers.

The board also voted to:

- renew the county's contract with the North Mississippi EMS Authority.

- hire Macon Mapping Co. of Calhoun City to provide the work on the county property tax maps for one year at a cost of \$13,200.

- allow Coroner Steve Wells to attend a "Body as Evidence" seminar that

was July 29 in Jackson.

- allow Deputy Devin Mixon to attend a jail administrator program Aug. 24-28 in Gulfport.

- hire Carol Wright to work in the tax assessor's office for two days in the last week of July.

- amend the District 4 bridge fund.

July 22
The board approved a number of budget amendments, including ones that repaid a 1999 equipment bond issue in full. The minutes note that a HAVA (electronic voting machine) compliance loan was never made with no need to repay from related loan proceeds, and that hospital renovation bonds have also been repaid in full.

July 27
Housing special Patty Patterson of the Golden Triangle Planning and Development District met with the board about the HOME project.

Superintendent of Education Jimmy Pittman and Business Manager Heidi Young of the Webster County School addressed the board about the school district and county budgets.

JULY 31

Upon a motion of Charles McClellan (District 5), the board adopted two resolutions regarding the Fame precinct/meeting building.

One was to apply for a grant for construction of a new building and the other was to agree to provide up to \$5,000 of matching in-kind funds. Planner George Crawford of the Golden Triangle Planning and Development District presented that matter to the board for action.

The board passed a resolution to provide up to \$20,000 of in-kind funds to the village of Walthall to be used in conjunction with a small municipalities grant if received for work on the courthouse grounds.

They also approved disallowances of homesteads as submitted by the state Tax Commission without amendment.

Linda Crowley (District 4), whose mother died Saturday, was absent Monday and at some previous meetings because of her late mother's then-illness. Charles Rivers (District 3) was absent July 20 and 21 because he was in the hospital in Tupelo. The board meets again at 8:30 a.m. Monday.

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BANNER-INDEPENDENT

BOONEVILLE, MS

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Commissioner Presley to be at BHA

Commissioner Brandon Presley will be on hand at the Booneville Housing Authority in Booneville on Thursday, Aug. 13, to help qualifying residents apply for the "Lifeline/Linkup Program".

This program offers financial assistance to low income telephone customers who qualify.

"My staff and I will be on hand to assist the Housing Authority in Booneville with applications for this

program," Presley said.

"Earlier this year, I was pleased when the Lifeline/Linkup program in Mississippi was expanded to help an even greater number of people who really need this financial assistance with their phone bills. I want to do all I can to make sure every qualifying resident knows about the program and has an opportunity to apply for it."

Commissioner Presley and his staff will be at the

Booneville Housing Authority Main Office in Booneville, located at 801 North College Street, from 3 p.m. until 4:30 p.m., to help residents with the application process.

The Lifeline/Linkup program offers yearly discounts of up to \$160 on telephone bills for qualifying customers in Mississippi.

In February, Commis-

sioner Presley's proposal to expand the program was passed and now includes telephone customers who receive federal public housing assistance; or whose income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty level; or their children participate in the national school lunch program's free lunch initiative; or who receive food stamps; or who receive Medicaid; or who receive temporary assistance for needy families.

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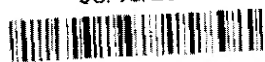
SOUTHERN REPORTER

SARDIS, MS

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WEEKLY

08/13/2009



Presley asks for public's help to 'Zap The Gap'

Northern District Public Service Commissioner Brandon Presley announced a new public outreach campaign called "Zap the Gap" to help determine areas in North Mississippi where there is consumer demand, yet little or no cell phone coverage.

The information gathered by Presley's office through Zap the Gap will be sent to wireless providers to bring attention to the

areas needing service or improved coverage in North Mississippi.

"Everyone has experienced those times when you need to use your cell phone, but can't get a signal due to the location you're in," Presley said. "Zap the Gap will help us determine where these locations are, so we can work with wireless providers to

See No Coverage page 2

No Coverage

Continued from page 1

provide better cell phone service for consumers and make sure these millions of dollars go to fix the problem."

Commissioner Presley noted that over the past five years wireless carriers who provide cell phone service in Mississippi have received \$512,263,467 from the Universal Service Fund paid by consumers, which Presley says are supposed to be used for increased deployment of cell phone services to rural areas.

"We found that over \$500 million dollars has been given to wireless providers over the past five years for this very use and yet we still have many places in the state, especially rural areas of North Mississippi, that don't have service," Presley said. "I want Zap the Gap to push providers to fill these gaps in the coverage areas, especially since consumers are already paying for the service."

Presley is asking consumers to fill out the Zap

the Gap. Consumer Wireless Survey and email it to:

ZapTheGap@psc.state.ms.us or mail the form to Commissioner Brandon Presley, Attn: Zap the Gap, P.O. Box 1174, Jackson, MS 39215-1174. (A copy of the survey is available online at <http://www.psc.state.ms.us/commissioners/northern/zapthegap.html>).

"In today's world, having reliable, dependable cell phone coverage is an important factor in the safety and quality of life of all Mississippians," Presley said. "If you happen to live in a rural area where there is little or no coverage, please let us know. If you regularly travel through certain areas where you always experience dropped calls, we want to hear from you."

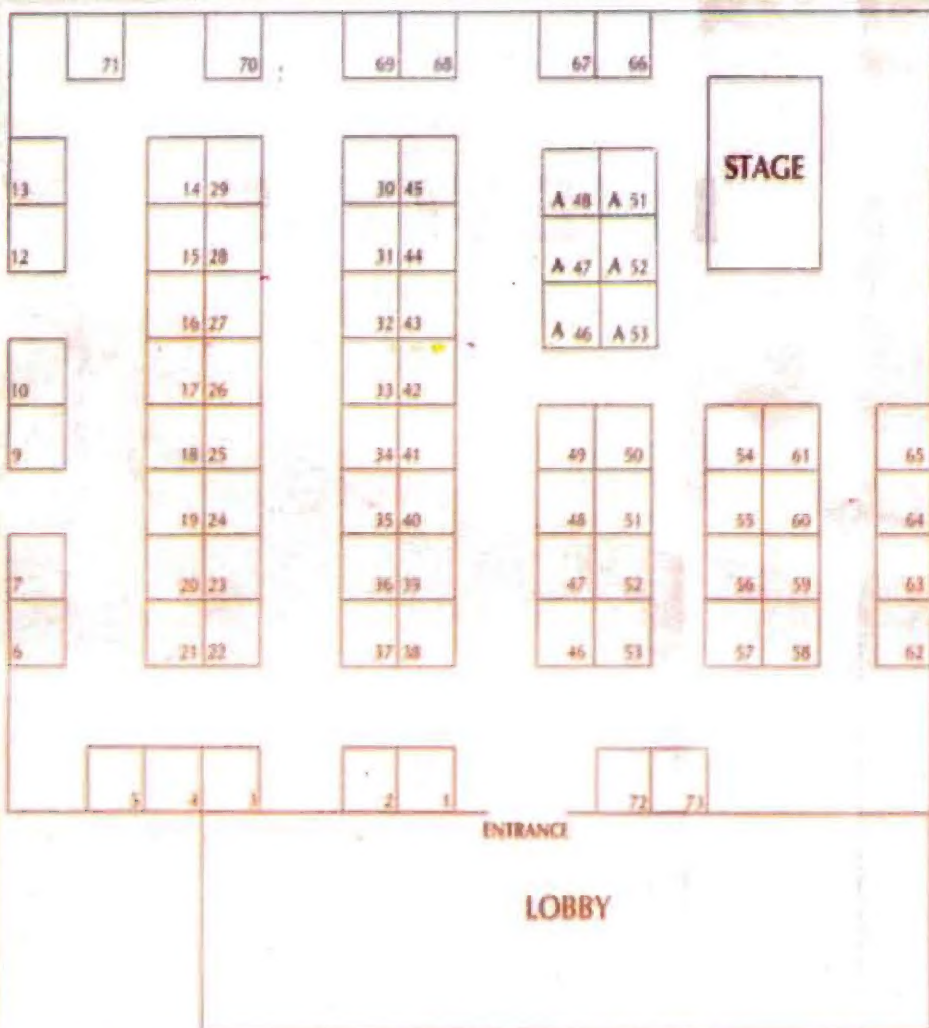
For more information about Zap the Gap, please visit our Zap the Gap webpage: www.psc.state.ms.us/commissioners/northern/zapthegap.html. Consumers can also call Commissioner Presley's office at 1-800-356-6428 or 1-800-637-7722.



22

The Food Show Markets and Lifestyle Expo THIS WEEKEND!

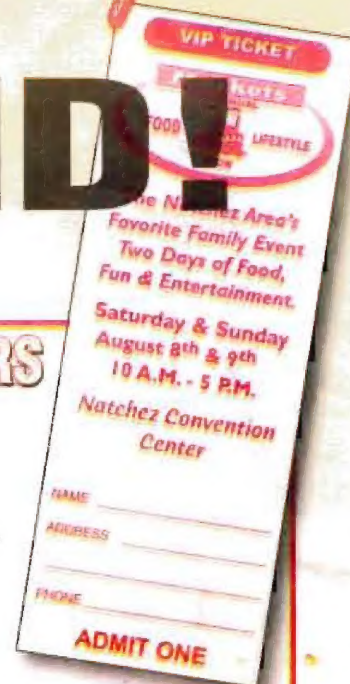
Natchez Convention Center



FOOD SHOW EXHIBITORS

Associated Grocers
AT&T
Blue Bell Creameries
Blue Bunny
Borden Milk Products
Pepsi Cola Natchez
Community Coffee Company
Crosspoint Church
Crystal Clear Signs
Cutco
Dairy Fresh of LA
Di Comm
DVD Enterprises LLC
Easy Living Products
Frito Lay Inc.
Golden Flake Snack Foods
Great River Honda
Great Vacation Destinations
Grubbs Vinyl Siding & Windows
Holsum Bakery
John Morrell Foods Inc.
Kraft Foods
Lance Inc.
McCormick / Zatarain's
Mid South Sales & Service

Natchez Coca-Cola
Onyx & Ice
Progressive Brokerage
Ram Inc.
Reilly Foods
Roubique Sales & Marketing
Sara Lee Food & Beverage
Southern Style Publications
The Natchez Democrat
The Pampered Chef
The Spa Shop
Tony Chachere's Creole Foods
Touch of Purple
Trace City Toyota/Mazda
Tree of Life
U.S. Army



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NORTHSIDE SUN

JACKSON, MS

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Northsiders selected to serve on state chamber of commerce

MEC names board officers

MAYO FLYNT, president of AT&T Mississippi, will serve as 2009 - 2010 chair of the Mississippi Economic Council, the state chamber of commerce.

Also, Northsider Jerry Host of Trustmark National Bank was re-elected MEC treasurer by the MEC board of directors.

Flynt was named president of AT&T Mississippi in January 2007. He is responsible for AT&T's operations in Mississippi including external affairs, regulatory affairs and public policy. Prior to this appointment, Mayo held a series of positions within BellSouth of increasing responsibility for regulatory and legislative affairs on the state and federal levels as well as internationally.

He is currently serving on the boards of directors for Momentum Mississippi, the Mississippi Technology Alliance, the Mississippi Partnership for Economic Development, the Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership, United Way of the Capital Area, the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, the Mississippi Museum of Art, and the University of Mississippi Alumni Association. He is also a member of the Jackson Downtown Rotary Club. Flynt holds a



Mayo Flynt

degree in finance from the University of Mississippi. He and his wife, Renee, have two daughters, Sarah and Olivia.

"MEC - through the strength of its members - is working to move Mississippi forward," Flynt said. "It is essential we continue to make improvements in education and workforce development, and strengthen our economic climate."

HOST SERVES as president and COO for Trustmark National Bank. He also serves as a director on the



Jerry Host

Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, New Orleans Branch Board and on the board of directors of the Mississippi Bankers Association. Host serves on the Mississippi Museum of Art board as well as the board of the Mississippi Chapter of Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. He is past chairman of the board for Pulse-EFT Association/Discover Financial Services and past member of their steering committee. Host has served as treasurer to the Mississippi Economic Council since May 2008.

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RECORD

OCEAN SPRINGS, MS

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United Way receives²² campaign donation from AT&T



SUBMITTED PHOTO/Ocean Springs Record

United Way for Jackson and George Counties sets campaign kick-off event for September 3rd at the Pascagoula Civic Center. Above: Kathleen Shaughnessy with AT&T presents a \$7500 campaign contribution check to Carolyn Moore, chief professional officer of United Way for Jackson and George Counties. This was one of the agency's first campaign checks this year.